[29th October 1935

Diet of Mr. Mukundalal Sircar, a prisoner confined in the Central Jail at Salem.

* 220 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mukundalal Sircar, a prisoner in the Madras Conspiracy case, is a Bengalee and is used to fish diet;

(*b*) whether fish diet is allowed to him in the jail now; if not, what the reasons are for not allowing it to him and what the kind of diet allowed to him now is;

(*c*) whether there are any complaints that the present diet allowed to him does not suit him;

(*d*) how they have been or are proposed to be disposed of;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that he is segregated in the prison and, if so, what the reasons are therefor;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Hon. the Law Member, and the Inspector-General of Prisons interviewed the said prisoner in Vellore and Salem jails respectively;

(*g*) if so, whether any personal representations were made to them; and

(*h*) if the answer to clause (*g*) be in the affirmative, what the representations were and how they were or are being dealt with by the Government?

A.—(*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Government have no information as to whether prisoner Mukundalal Sircar is used to fish diet.

(*b*) The prisoner has been placed in 'B' class and fresh fish is one of the articles included in the dietary for that class of prisoners. On medical recommendation he is now being given wheat and rice diet.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) Yes, because under the orders of the Government of India terrorist prisoners should be segregated from other prisoners.

(*f*), (*g*) & (*h*) The prisoner was interviewed by the Inspector-General of Prisons at the Central Jail, Salem, on 5th March 1935. Representations were then made by the prisoner

(i) that he should not be segregated,

(ii) that he should be allowed more books.

The prisoner was informed that his segregation would continue and that he might submit to the Superintendent lists of any particular literature he might require. As a result of the representation made by the prisoner for additional periodicals, he was permitted the use of the following periodicals:—

Champion and *Federated India.*

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Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" May I know, Sir, whether these were the only periodicals required by him? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" Those are the only periodicals desired by him and approved by the Government."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" May I know from the Hon. the Law Member whether the prisoner required any other books? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" Notice."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" May I know Sir, whether he made a requisition for certain conveniences such as easy chair, mosquito-curtain and other things? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" Notice again."

Death of a prisoner in the Cannanore jail due to alleged flogging.

* 221 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi : Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that about the beginning of this year a prisoner confined in the Cannanore jail was flogged while he was suffering from dysentery; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the prisoner died from the effects of shock due to flogging?

A.—(*a*) He was given 15 stripes for deliberately refusing to work when he was all right. At the time flogging was ordered, the Superintendent and Medical Officer was perfectly satisfied that the prisoner was free from any trace of dysentery. Two days after he developed Bacillary dysentery and died the same night.

(*b*) No.

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi :—" May I know, Sir, the interval of time that passed between the time when the medical officer pronounced that the prisoner was absolutely free from any trace of dysentery and the time when the flogging took place? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" I take it that the medical officer examined the prisoner before the flogging was administered and found him to be in perfectly good health."

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi :—" I wanted to know the interval that passed between the time when the actual flogging took place and the time when the medical officer pronounced him to be absolutely free from any trace of dysentery? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" I think I made it clear that these prisoners have to be examined a few minutes before flogging is to be administered to them."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur :—" Did the medical officer certify that the prisoner was fit to receive the flogging intended to be inflicted on him? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" Yes, I should think so."